the repatriation of Bangladeshi Chama refugees from the refugee camps in Tripura would begin on January 15th. This was to be confirmed by a group of refugee leaders who visited the Chittagong Hill Tracts in early January 1987. They returned from that visit unconvinced that the refugees would be safe if they returned. This assessment was reinforced by the continuing inflow of refugees. In the circumstances the refugees refused to leave.

(c) No, Sir, as is evident from the above.

(d) Does not arise.

678. [*Transferred to the 18 November, 1987*]

Foreign bases active in Pakistan

679. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government had been drawn to a press news-item captioned "Foreign bases active in Pak" as reported in the Indian Express, dated 13th October, 1987;

(b) if so, whether the United States is providing military facilities in all parts of Pakistan; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto and further precautionary steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have seen reports that the United States has acquired military facilities in Pakistan.

(c) Government are opposed to the setting up of foreign bases/facilities in any country and have made known their concerns in this regard to Pakistan and the United States. Both the USA and Pakistan deny the existence of any such bases in Pakistan. Government are, however, maintaining a constant vigil on all developments having bearing on India's security.

Raising of the Kashmir issue in the UN General Assembly by Pakistan

680. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Pakistan has recently raised the question of Kashmir in the UN General assembly;

(b) if so, whether the Prime Minister of Pakistan has reiterated that Kashmir is part of Pakistan;

(c) if so, whether Pakistan is not violating the Simla agreement by reiterating the Kashmir issue; and

(d) the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Pakistan's violation of the Simla Agreement in this respect will not in any way change the status of Jammu and Kashmir as an integral part of India.

Strength of Supreme Court Judges

681. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the strength of Supreme Court Judges

was increased from 18 to 26 to clear the arrears of pending cases speedily;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are still ten vacancies of the Judges in Supreme Court; and

(c) if so, what are the hurdles in filling these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court was increased from 18 Judges to 26 Judges having regard to the institution and pendency of cases.

As on 9.11.87, there were 10 vacancies in the Supreme Court.

Selection of Judges involves deliberation in consultation with the Chief Justice of India; this does take time as the effort is to appoint the most suitable persons as Judges.

Resource mobilisation

682. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the severe drought situation and the resultant fall in resource mobilisation, Government propose to prune the annual target; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, the strategy proposed to be employed in covering the resources gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) A study on the impact of drought on the economy of the country is being undertaken in the Planning Commission. A view on resources gap and Plan targets for the Annual Plan 1987-88 and Seventh Five Year Plan will be taken after results of the study are available.

12.00 NOON

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Indira Vikas Patra (Third Amendment) Rules, 1987

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 12 of the Government Savings Certificates Act, 1959, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) Notification GSR No. 739(E), dated the 31st August, 1987, publishing the Indira Vikas Patra (Third Amendment) Rules, 1987. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-4969/87].

Notifiration of the Ministry of External Affairs

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi of the Ministry of External Affairs Notification S.O. No. 768(E), dated the 12th August, 1987, publishing Corrigendum to Government Notification S.O. No. 429(E), dated the 18th July, 1986. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-4948/87]

Notifications of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions - Department of Personnel and Training

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of section 3 of All India Services Act, 1951, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Personnel and Training):—